

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13

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R 231000Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3989

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2069

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: PAPADOPOULOS ELECTED INTERIM HOUSE SPEAKER

REF: NICOSIA 2008 (DTG 191502Z JUL 76)

1. DEPUTY HOUSE PRESIDENT AND GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR TASSOS
PAPADOPOULOS WAS ELECTED JULY 22 INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, REPLACING CLERIDES. PAPADOPOULOS WILL
SERVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE HELD. HOUSE WILL
NOT MEET UNTIL SEPTEMBER, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY BUSINESS, BUT
AS HOUSE PRESIDENT, PAPADOPOULOS WILL SERVE AS ACTING PRESIDENT
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OF CYPRUS WHILE MAKARIOS ATTENDS COLOMBO CONFERENCE IN AUGUST.

2. PAPADOPOULOS WAS ELECTED UNOPPOSED WITH 17 VOTES (9 AKEL, 3 PROGRESSIVE, 4 INDEPENDENTS AND 1 SOCIALIST). CLERIDES AND 12 MEMBERS OF HIS UNIFIED PARTY BOYCOTTED SESSION IN PROTEST AGAINST ACCUSATIONS LAST WEEK THAT UNIFIED PARTY HAD SOUGHT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FRG EMBASSY (SEE REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: CLERIDES IS FAR FROM DEAD POLITICALLY -- IN FACT SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE HE COULD GET AS MUCH AS 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE SEPT. ELECTIONS -- BUT HIS LOSS OF THE HOUSE PRESIDENCY TO HIS FORMER FRIEND AND POLITICAL ALLY IS ANOTHER MEASURE OF HIS FALL FROM GRACE WITH THE POWER THAT IS. PAPADOPOULOS, WHO PUBLICLY BROKE WITH CLERIDES IN JUNE OVER THE LATTER'S CRITICISM OF GOC HANDLING OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS, UNCONVINCINGLY MAINTAINS THAT HE ONLY RELUCTANTLY SUCCUMBED TO PRESSURE (PRESUMABLY FROM MAKARIOS) TO ACCEPT THE HOUSE PRESIDENCY AND THAT IN DOING SO HE WAS ACTUALLY DOING A "FAVOR" FOR CLERIDES AND HELPING TO PRESERVE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. PAPADOPOULOS IS KNOWN TO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS AND HIS ELECTION TO THE HOUSE PRESIDENCY REINFORCES THE BELIEF THAT MAKARIOS' VIEWS HIM AS A POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR AND THAT, DESPITE CURRENT DISCLAIMERS, HE WILL NOT

BE ABLE TO RESIST RUNNING IN THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS. END COMMENT
CRAWFORD

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